



**Friends For Public Use**

P.O. Box 822

Darrington WA 98241

425-583-8797

Dear Mr. Forbes:

Friends For Public Use partners with local governments to keep public access open to public lands. We believe the public should use our public lands with respect, promote stewardship, work in partnership for their betterment.

**Darrington Project Specific Comments:**

**\*Boulder River Trailhead and Road Storage**

Friends For Public Use does not support this project to make the Boulder River Trail longer by putting the existing road to the existing trailhead into storage. The current trail is not maintained to its current distance and even presents a hazardous crossing over a creek drainage where one has to pick their way through a collapsed trail decking and a bridge. We believe efforts and funding should be focused to maintain this trail and does not make sense to make this trail longer. We are not against creating an overflow parking for this trail since it has high usage. We would like to see the Forest Service increase Stewardship Projects to assist in funding for needed upgrades like this road is needing and perhaps funding additional parking as well.

**\*Buck Creek Campground Restoration**

Friends For Public Use supports this project to upgrade the campsites in the Buck Creek Campground. This campground is very popular and serves the public well as an affordable family get away. This campground accesses the recently reopened Suiattle River Road and many people are coming to this area to rediscover the Suiattle Valley and recreation it has to offer..

**\*Darrington Storm Damage Repairs**

Friends For Public Use fully supports this project and supports the concept of these projects in the future. Funding for such projects which depend on appropriated road maintenance funding and ERFO funding should be prioritized by multi use and higher use first. We encourage increased Stewardship Projects to be considered to assist in funding all Forest Roads.

**\*Lost Creek Bridge Replacement**

Friends For Public Use, FFPU, supports this project. FSR #49 is a high use road accessing diverse recreations. FFPU volunteers do routine removal of organic matter and clear drainage on bridges within the Darrington District and value these important & costly infrastructures. We encourage consideration of this road for a future Stewardship Project which could not only improve wildlife habitat and restore forest health but also generate needed revenues which could be appropriated for

bridge upgrades and materials to stabilize the roadbed.

**\*North Mountain Lookout Restoration**

Friends For Public Use supports this project which is being led and funded by Friends for North Mountain. FFPU stands ready to assist with volunteer efforts to help with keeping the forest access roads to this lookout open and safe. Restoring this historical fire lookout will not only preserve a very important part of local heritage but will also be a great vacation destination.

**\*North Zone Huckleberry Enhancement**

Friends For Public Use supports this project and believes this type of management is wise use for our National Forest Lands.

**\*Darrington District Blowdown Salvage**

Friends For Public Use supports all projects that use recovery of old growth trees to be sold for high end value materials. We strongly support this project.

**\*Segelsen Collaborative Vegetation & Aquatic Restoration Project**

Friends For Public Use strongly supports this project and feels that this collaborative Stewardship Contracting offers many solutions to challenges we are currently seeing to keep both recreation open and maintain healthy habitat meeting the management objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan including the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. We would like to see more of these projects in the future.

Sincerely,

Martha Rasmussen, FFPU Coordinator

martha@ffpu@gmail.com

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